

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of freezing or superficial freezing of foods comprising the step of introducing the foods into a coolant comprising Use of cooled alcohol, acetic acid esters or acetone, mixed with a salt selected from the group consisting of ~~the~~ alkali metals, beryllium group and alkaline-earth metals, ~~as coolant for the freezing or superficial freezing of foods such as slabs of sausage or cheese.~~
2. (Currently Amended) The method Use of cooled alcohol according to claim 1, wherein said ~~alcohol is coolant~~ comprises an alcohol selected from the group consisting of distilled spirits, ethanol, ~~alkanes and acetic acid esters~~ or a mixture thereof.
3. (Currently Amended) The method Use of cooled alcohol according to claim 2, wherein said acetic acid ester is an acetic acid ester selected from the group consisting of butyl acetate, ethyl acetate and acetone.
4. (Currently Amended) The method Use of cooled alcohol according to claim 1, wherein said salt is common salt.
5. (Currently Amended) Coolant for the freezing or superficial freezing of foods ~~such as slabs of sausage or cheese,~~ said coolant ~~containing alcohol comprising~~ alkanes, acetic acid esters or acetone wherein a salt selected from the group consisting of ~~the~~ alkali metals, beryllium group and alkaline-earth metals, is added to said coolant.
6. (Original) Coolant according to claim 5 wherein said coolant contains an alcohol selected from the group consisting of distilled spirits, ethanol, alkanes, acetic acid ester, or a mixture thereof.
7. (Original) Coolant according to claim 6 wherein said acetic acid ester is an acetic acid ester selected from the group consisting of butyl acetate, ethyl acetate and acetone.

8. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Use of alcohol~~ according to claim 1 wherein distilled water is added to said coolant.
9. (Original) Coolant according to claim 5 wherein distilled water is added to said coolant.
10. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Use of alcohol~~ according to claim 8 wherein said coolant contains between 50% and 90% by weight of alcohol, based on said coolant.
11. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Use of alcohol~~ according to claim 10 wherein said coolant contains about 70% by weight of alcohol, based on said coolant.
12. (Original) Coolant according to claim 9 wherein said coolant contains between 50% and 90% by weight of alcohol, based on said coolant.
13. (Original) Coolant according to claim 12 wherein said coolant contains about 70% by weight of alcohol, based on said coolant.
14. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Use of alcohol~~ according to claim 1 wherein between 0.5% and 10.0% by weight of salt, based on the weight of said coolant are added to said coolant.
15. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Use of alcohol~~ according to claim 14 wherein 3.0% by weight of salt, based on the weight of said coolant are added to said coolant.
16. (Original) Coolant according to claim 5 wherein between 0.5% and 10.0% by weight of salt, based on the weight of said coolant are added to said coolant.
17. (Original) Coolant according to claim 16 wherein between 3.0% by weight of salt, based on the weight of said coolant are added to said coolant.
18. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Use of alcohol or coolant~~ according to claim 1 wherein said coolant has a temperature of -40°C to -10°C.
19. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Use of alcohol or coolant~~ according to claim 18, wherein said coolant has a temperature of -30°C to -20°C.
20. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Use of alcohol~~ according to claim 1 wherein a flavouring is added to said coolant.
21. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Use of alcohol~~ according to claim 20 wherein said flavouring is in the form of an alcoholic beverage.
22. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Use of alcohol~~ according to claim 20 wherein said flavouring is in the form of an essential substance.

23. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Use of alcohol~~ according to claim 5 wherein a flavouring is added to said coolant.
24. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Use of alcohol~~ according to claim 23 wherein said flavouring is in the form of an alcoholic beverage.
25. (Currently Amended) The method ~~Use of alcohol~~ according to claim 23 wherein said flavouring is in the form of an essential substance.
26. (Currently Amended) Process for slicing foods ~~such as slabs of sausage or cheese, which is sliced by a cutting blade and the food is cooled prior to slicing wherein the food is immersed into a coolant according to claim 5 and is superficially frozen comprising the steps of:~~
- immersing the foods into a coolant comprising alkanes, acetic acid esters or acetone, and a salt selected from the group consisting of alkali metals, beryllium group and alkaline-earth metals;
  - cooling the foods until the foods are superficially frozen;
  - slicing the foods by a cutting blade after the foods are cooled.
27. (Original) Process according to claim 27 wherein the coolant is substantially liquid.
28. (Currently Amended) Process for the cutting and packaging of foods, wherein the process steps according to claim 26 are followed by a packaging step during which the cut food ~~product is~~ foods are packaged in plastic sheeting under vacuum or a protective atmosphere.